

DISSEMINATED BY MERCURY PUBLIC AFFAIRS, A REGISTERED FOREIGN AGENT, ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) OF GUYANA. MORE INFORMATION IS ON FILE WITH THE DEPT. OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

GUYANA CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS TIME-TABLE

November 12: Local elections are held throughout Guyana. PPP candidates win 61% of the vote and win in several districts that are traditional strongholds of the APNU+AFC Government coalition.

December 21: The National Assembly passes a vote of no confidence by a 33-32 vote margin, triggering elections within 90 days (March 21) as per Article 106(7) of the Guyanese Constitution. Prime Minister recognizes need to call early elections.

January 2: Government calls on Speaker of the National Assembly to review reverse the no confidence motion. He declines.

January 7: The Government refuses to call elections; files a legal action to invalidate the vote of no confidence, arguing, in part, that 33 out of 65 votes is not a "majority".

January 31: Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (court of first instance) rejects the Government's arguments and upholds the legality of the vote of no confidence; calls for general elections to proceed.

February 5: The Government refuses to call elections; files a legal appeal.

February 25: President Granger instructs Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) to begin preparing for general elections – *66 days after the no confidence motion* and less than one month before the constitutional deadline.

March 19: GECOM announces it can hold elections in November (subsequently says by Christmas) following the completion of a new "house-to-house" registration process, further delaying the date for elections.

March 21: Deadline passes for the constitutionally-mandated general election.

March 22: Notwithstanding the clear language in the Constitution, and well-established practice (APNU+AFC controls 33 votes out of 65 in the National Assembly), the Court of Appeals rules (2-1) that the no confidence motion required 34 votes.

March 27: The PPP files an appeal with the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

June 18: The CCJ unanimously (5-0) reverses the Court of Appeals and upholds the vote of no confidence; rules elections should have occurred by March 21. Legal expenses were awarded to the Leader of the Opposition (PPP). CCJ also declares that the Chairman of the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) had been selected in contravention of the Constitution and a new Chairman be chosen by the President in compliance with the law.

July 12: The CCJ – announcing its consequential orders -- unanimously orders that elections be held as required by the clear language of the Constitution (within 90 days). Underscores that all parties, including GECOM, must abide by the Constitution. Rules that, as required under Article 106(6), the "Cabinet, including the President" must resign and the government must only function as a "caretaker government" and focus on holding elections consistent with the tradition in all parliamentary systems.

To date (well over 7 months after the no confidence vote): The Cabinet has refused to resign and, although the President finally and reluctantly appointed a new GECOM Commissioner, the Government has refused to call for elections; and the Government continues to insist that it must complete "house to house" registration (which would take many months) despite the clear order of the CCJ to comply with the Constitution – as confirmed by GECOM's own in-house counsel.